
**CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

**REENTRY REPOSITORY
January 2005**

**PROGRAMS AND TREATMENT
DIVISION**

**OFFENDER PROGRAMS
& VICTIM SERVICES UNIT**

**DEPUTY WARDEN
Sandra Bundy**

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

REENTRY REPOSITORY

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Programs and Treatment Division

Offender Programs and Victim Services Unit

Deputy Warden Sandra Bundy

SECTIONS:

1. DEFINITION of REENTRY

This is a description of the Connecticut Department of Correction's (CDOC) approach to Reentry.

2. EXISTING REENTRY PROGRAMS as listed in the CDOC Compendium

The Compendium is a comprehensive listing and description of CDOC programs, the facilities they are located in and the auspices they are under. The Compendium can be accessed through our web site at: www.ct.gov/doc. Programs are continually being added or deleted.

3. REENTRY RESOURCES and programs not listed in the Compendium

This section identifies resources that work in collaboration or are contracted by CDOC. It also contains programs that have been initiated, but are not yet listed in the Compendium.

4. NEW REENTRY INITIATIVES

This is a listing of new reentry initiatives that CDOC is working on but have not yet been implemented.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REENTRY REPOSITORY
PROGRAMS AND NEW INITIATIVES
January 2005

1. DEFINITION of REENTRY

What is Reentry?

Reentry is the process of offenders leaving a prison system and returning to society. The Connecticut Department of Corrections recognizes that if an offender successfully reintegrates into society and becomes a law-abiding citizen, not only will recidivism be reduced, but public safety will increase. Public safety has become the new driving force for Reentry and is a major issue throughout the country.

In Connecticut, the Department of Correction is collaborating with the courts, law enforcement and social service agencies, non-profits and faith based organizations to form partnerships, forge contracts and provide services. Some initiatives have noted that reentry actually begins at the time of arrest. For our purposes reentry begins the first day of incarceration.

A variety of programs are used to assist offenders in the process, including transition, substance abuse, academic and vocational training and employment. Offenders receive medical and mental health assessment and will be provided additional services as needed. Mentoring programs, referral services, case management and aftercare services are all used to assist the offender in being successful upon release from prison.

Is Reentry Effective?

Evaluations of reentry programs evidence that some programs reduce recidivism and improve offenders' success in transitioning back to the community¹. For example, vocational training and work programs appear to reduce recidivism by improving job skills, and drug rehabilitation, halfway house programs can help ease the transition from prison to the community.

These evaluations suggest the importance of having the following basic elements in reentry programs¹.

- Providing incentives for program participation helps to increase the number of offenders who volunteer for reentry programs.
- Beginning services while the offender is still in custody helps to improve the continuity of service delivery.

- Providing rewards for completing specific phases of the program improves offender morale and motivation to complete the entire program.
- Coordination among probation and parole agencies, service providers, mentors, volunteers and other community agencies that work with the offender and his/her family helps to insure offender accesses to services and to reduce replication and overlap of services.
- Programs should seek to identify the specific needs of each offender and should engage the offender's family in responding to these needs.

1 BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Center for Program Evaluation Web site and Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry Executive Summary by The Urban Institute Justice Policy Center: Avi Bhati; Jennifer Castro; Jill Farrell; Meagan Funches; Vera Kachnowski; Kamala Mallik Kane; Sarah Lawrence; Rebecca Naser; John Roman; William Turner, Michelle Waul, and Laura Winterfield.

2. EXISTING REENTRY PROGRAMS as listed in the Compendium

Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeships in concert with the Labor Department are offered in thirty-six programs at twelve sites. These programs range in length from six months to three years. Vocational students earn apprenticeship credit and upon completion of a program are awarded a prospective apprenticeship certificate by the Connecticut Labor Department.

Facilities:

BROOKLYN CI, CHESHIRE CI, CORRIGAN CI, MACDOUGALL CI, MANSON YI, OSBORN CI, RADGOWSKI CI, WALKER RSMU, WEBSTER CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Bridging the Gap

Alcoholics Anonymous is one of the most important self-help resources for alcoholic men and women. A very important first step for inmates being released into the community is attending the first meeting as soon as possible following release. Addiction Services staff in the institution utilize a toll-free telephone number to get information about the nearest AA meeting location, along with the name of a contact person. An AA member then will contact the inmate upon release and even provide transportation to a meeting.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI, BRIDGEPORT CC, BROOKLYN CI, CHESHIRE CI, CORRIGAN CI, ENFIELD CI, GARNER CI, HARTFORD CC, MACDOUGALL CI, NEW HAVEN CC, NORTHERN CI, OSBORN CI, RADGOWSKI CI, ROBINSON CI, WALKER RSMU, WEBSTER CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, Volunteer Services

Career Exploration Day

This program teaches inmates about different vocations. Designed as an "in-house" activity, facility Vocational Instructors present information and samples about their programs to academic students. The majority of students participating have sentences of three years or more and are able to learn about different vocations.

Facilities:

MACDOUGALL CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Career Exploration Fair

This program teaches inmates about different vocations. Designed as an "in-house" activity, facility Vocational Instructors present information and samples about their programs to academic students. Outside agencies present information and provide students with recommendations for job searching and interviewing skills. This activity is conducted in the form of a professional conference for students. The majority of students participating have sentences of three years or more and are able to learn about different vocations.

Facilities:

MANSON YI

Auspices:

USD#1

Chrysalis

A faith based program designed to reduce recidivism by decreasing a propensity for addiction and criminal behavior. The program will provide ties to faith communities and assist inmates in developing positive life directions, personal growth and responsibility. This twenty-six (26) week daily program will serve up to thirty-two (32) women. Participants will be assisted in discovering a life-style that is positive, healing and productive. This program will be presented under the auspice of the Religious Services Department.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Religious Services

Connecticut Small Business Development Center

This program provides information on starting a small business, as well as developing a business and marketing plan.

Facilities:

BROOKLYN CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Connecticut Works

This is a statewide program with 18 offices in Connecticut. CT WORKS is a partnership among the Connecticut Department of Labor, regional Workforce Development Boards, and a number of state and community organizations. Its mission is to enhance the economic development by addressing the special employment and training needs of both job seekers and employers. This program is offered to inmates that are Veterans in need of job services.

Facilities:

BRIDGEPORT CC, ENFIELD CI, GATES CI, HARTFORD CC, MACDOUGALL CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

CONNTAC-EOC (CT Talent Assistance Cooperative-Education Opportunity Center)

Representatives from CONNTAC-EOC are provided with names of students to meet with while the student is still incarcerated. The representatives assist students with their post-secondary plans and financial aid.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI, BROOKLYN CI, CYBULSKI CI, ENFIELD CI, GARNER CI, HARTFORD CC, MANSON YI, OSBORN CI, ROBINSON CI, WALKER RSMU, WEBSTER CI, WILLARD CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Educational, Career Resources and Job Fairs

These types of Fairs are conducted in the form of a professional conference for students. The educational staff invite a keynote speaker and students proceed to attend individual workshops on a variety of topics. The goal of these Fairs is to assist inmates with their transition plans before they return to the community.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI, BRIDGEPORT CC, BROOKLYN CI, CYBULSKI CI, ENFIELD CI, HARTFORD CC, NEW HAVEN CC, RADGOWSKI CI, ROBINSON CI, WEBSTER CI, WILLARD CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services, USD#1

Family Time Program

Families in Crisis, a contracted agency, provides this program. It is designed to instruct offenders on how to acquire the skills that will help them stay connected with their immediate family members. This 12-session program offers monthly support groups for those that complete the program, as well as, home based case management services for members of their families.

Facilities:

MACDOUGALL CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Facility Staff

FEATS Program (Family, Education, Aids Transition Skills)

This two day program is offered twice a year to foster an awareness of the necessary skills for transition back into the community. Inmates attend workshops throughout this two-day program. Each workshop addresses a different transition development area, e. g., parenting, family, workplace readiness and health.

Facilities:

ENFIELD CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Going Home-Enfield-CI

The Going Home transition program uses a multi-disciplinary approach to offer transition programming to inmates with 2 years or less left on their sentence. This 10-week program provides information and helps develop skills in the following areas: Decision-making/goal-setting, transitioning to the community, reestablishing family relations, getting involved as a community volunteer, getting a driver's license, writing a resume, creating a budget, and making an overall discharge plan.

Facilities:

ENFIELD CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Job Center

The Job Center is designed to help inmates get and maintain a job after release. It does this by providing job readiness training, resume writing, and employment referrals. Specific jobs are located by the Job Center's computer connection to the Department of Labor's Connecticut Job Bank and by using the Department of Correction Job Bank.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI, CYBULSKI CI, WEBSTER CI, WILLARD CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Life After Incarceration

Life After Incarceration: A pre-release education program designed to reduce recidivism, promote re-unification and enhance successful reintegration. The 12-week program will serve up to 15 participants who will be introduced to information that will enhance their understanding of why criminal behavior occurs and will be guided through principles that will enhance self-improvement. This will be collaborative program with the UCONN Extension Program.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Life Plan

This Protestant program prepares inmates for re-entry into the community by teaching life skills that are consistent with Christian principles.

Facilities:

BROOKLYN CI, CORRIGAN CI, RADGOWSKI CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

Religious Services , Volunteer Services

Moral Recognition Therapy

This program is based on How To Escape Your Prison: A Moral Recognition Therapy Work Group. It emphasizes the importance of honest self-appraisal and the need to change one's beliefs, attitudes, and behavior. An important component of the program is an ongoing evaluation of progress by other inmates. Outside mentors are brought into the prison and, when possible, lend assistance post release.

Facilities:

BROOKLYN CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Volunteer Services

Pre-Release Program

This ongoing group offers information on community support groups and resources to assist offenders in successfully reintegrating into the community.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Pre-Release Seminar

This is a ten-session program that prepares inmates for release into the community.

Facilities:

RADGOWSKI CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Pre-Release Substance Abuse Treatment (PRESAT)

This is an intensive three-week program on substance abuse issues and staying clean in the community.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Protestant Bible Study (Spanish)

Biblical readings are reviewed with Spanish inmates. The goal of this program is to help inmates develop self-awareness and personal growth based on Christian principles.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI, BROOKLYN CI, CYBULSKI CI, ENFIELD CI, GARNER CI, GATES CI, HARTFORD CC, MACDOUGALL CI, MANSON YI, NEW HAVEN CC, OSBORN CI, RADGOWSKI CI, ROBINSON CI, WALKER RSMU, WEBSTER CI, WILLARD CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

Religious Services , Volunteer Services

Relapse Prevention Substance Abuse - York

This program for community release eligible inmates is designed to prepare them for the challenges of re-entry into the community. This program focuses on strategies to prevent relapse from mood-altering substances. Topics include coping skills and transition to the community. This weekly group meets for ten sessions.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Addiction Services

Resource Center

This center provides inmates with the resources for their reintegration into the community.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

SET ME FREE Pre-Release Group

This group is for women who have two (2) months or less on their sentences. The group will consist of 12 women and will run for a cycle of four weeks. Broken down into four 1 1/2 hour sessions. Each group commences with a 25-minute video followed by a discussion and or role play. The videos are entitled "Success after Prison" and focus on reducing recidivism, cognitive intervention, and changing the mindset toward a positive attitude. Topics covered include: blame/victim patterns; taking responsibility for your life; conflict/anger management; positive benefits from prison (GED, vocation-training etc.), forgiveness/restoring relationships. Strong emphasis will be placed on role-play on employment skills: i.e. interview conduct; completing application forms, etc.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Stride Program

The Stride Program is a service designed to provide incarcerated or paroled individuals who meet specific criteria with resources such as housing, employment and clothing. Unified School District #1 staff provide Stride with names of eligible inmates who they can meet within the facility to assist with transition plans prior to release.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Facility Staff

Strive Program

STRIVE is a program operated by a number not-for-profit affiliates. Its main goal is to help people get and keep jobs. STRIVE emphasizes developing the kinds of attitudes that are necessary to get and keep a job. It actively assists in job placement for graduates and offers two-year long-term post placement support to help its graduates with whatever problem that threatens their continued success. In this collaborative effort, STRIVE and the Department of Correction staff enrolls the inmates in an intensive three-week program, to begin upon discharge from the facility. The objective of this collaborative program is to keep the participants from returning to the Department of Correction by helping them change their attitude, get a job, and keep the job.

Facilities:

BRIDGEPORT CC, MANSON YI, WEBSTER CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff, Volunteer Group

Supportive Therapy

This program is open to all who sign up. It is intended to serve as an outlet for inmates who often express concerns for the future as they approach discharge.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Health Services

The Center for Women and Families

This contracted agency provides individual and group counseling to female inmates who are preparing to return to the community. The program assists them to prepare a plan to establish a non-criminal means of support, to locate adequate housing, and to enroll in educational or vocational training when appropriate. The agency continues to provide services to the inmate if she is released to the Bridgeport area.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program

The Resettlement Program

The Resettlement Program is a program of Community Partners in Action, which provides long-term case management services to inmates six months prior to release and then up to six months follow-up services in the community. The goal of the program is to assist offenders prepare for and accomplish a successful transition back into the community. The targeted population for the program is those high-risk inmates who have a multitude of issues which include but are not limited to the following: a history of incarceration, substance abuse, lack of life skills and/or education, unstable employment record, lack of housing upon release, etc. The program acts as a bridge connecting inmates to those community based agencies that are instrumental in securing appropriate housing, treatment, employment, education, food, clothing and other life necessities. The ultimate goal is to help reduce the recidivism rate by assisting ex-offenders establish a crime-free life for themselves and their family.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Facility Staff, Volunteer Services

The Skills Toward Employment Programs (Step Program)

The STEP Program is designed to provide job readiness and job search skills that are intended to promote access to higher paying, personally relevant jobs that meet statewide labor market demands. Participants are non-custodial parents incarcerated at York Correctional Institution. The training modules include cover letters, goal setting, labor trends, networking, assessments, interviewing, transferable skills, listening skills, transition plans, career transcript, work values, job search, problem solving, resume writing and communication.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, USD#1

Transition Services Program

This is an ongoing interactive video/discussion group. It assists inmates with their transition back into the community by providing the information and contacts needed in areas such as housing, financial assistance, clothing, education and employment.

Facilities:

YORK CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Transition/School to Work

The Transition/School to Work program's mission is to place participating students in employment and/or vocational/educational programs and to provide each student with a needs-based transition plan prior to his/her release to maximize potential for successful re-entry into society. School-based and work-based learning opportunities are provided through job and resource fairs, employment skills curriculum, sessions with transition counselors and meetings with a transition coordinator. A USD#1 brochure describing this program is available.

Facilities:

BRIDGEPORT CC, BROOKLYN CI, CHESHIRE CI, CYBULSKI CI, ENFIELD CI, GARNER CI, HARTFORD CC, MACDOUGALL CI, MANSON YI, OSBORN CI, RADGOWSKI CI, ROBINSON CI, WALKER RSMU, WEBSTER CI, WILLARD CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC)

Transitional Linkage into the Community (TLC) is a program of Community Partners in Action which provides discharge planning for inmates with HIV/AIDS. TLC serves every prison and jail in the state, and works with clients returning to every region of the state. TLC case managers meet clients' emergency needs upon release, and connect them with services in their local communities for continuing care and assistance.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI, BRIDGEPORT CC, BROOKLYN CI, CHESHIRE CI, CORRIGAN CI, CYBULSKI CI, ENFIELD CI, GARNER CI, GATES CI, HARTFORD CC, MACDOUGALL CI, MANSON YI, NEW HAVEN CC, NORTHERN CI, OSBORN CI, RADGOWSKI CI, ROBINSON CI, WALKER RSMU, WEBSTER CI, WILLARD CI, YORK CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Health Services

Work Readiness

This is an eight-week program provided by USD #1. The course focuses on job search, resume writing, and other necessary work readiness subjects.

Facilities:

RADGOWSKI CI

Auspices:

USD#1

Work Release

This is a collaborative effort between the Brooklyn Correctional Institution and the local community business that provides an incarcerated individual the opportunity to participate in work skills. It also develops good work habits, responsibility, and the ability to work in a team while earning income that can be used to facilitate a transition into the community.

Facilities:

BROOKLYN CI

Auspices:

Facility Staff

Youthful Offender Mentoring Program

A contract agency, Family ReEntry, Inc., conducts this program. Mentoring is a positive and supportive relationship with a responsible and dependable adult volunteer. Mentors are committed and caring individuals who assist inmates and their family with transition back to the community.

Facilities:

MANSON YI, YORK CI

Auspices:

Contracted Program, Facility Staff

Youthful Offender Transition Counseling and College Courses

In this program career resource training and job placement assistance are offered to youthful offenders. College course programming is provided through the local community college.

Facilities:

BERGIN CI

Auspices:

USD#1

3. REENTRY RESOURCES and programs not listed in the Compendium

211-Infoline

This is an information line to help callers find information, discover options, and provide assistance with such issues as food, housing, clothing, transportation, substance abuse, domestic violence, childcare or nearly every other need they may have. The 211 database is on the department's e-mail system and accessible to anyone with e-mail. In addition, 211 CD ROMs was provided to staff who do not have e-mail and who work with offenders who are close to discharge.

Administrative Directive 9.3 Inmate Admissions, Transfers and Discharges

This directive provides a discharge checklist for staff to use to assist offenders who are within 45 days of discharge. The checklist will help ensure a smooth transition and continuum of care in the community.

Bridgeport Council of Churches: CO-OP Center Program in Bridgeport

Provides post-release counseling and services which include: job referrals, pre-employment counseling, job training referrals, material assistance, identification, food assistance, bilingual services, education assistance, computer training, and HIV/AIDS counseling. CO-OP also offers an Arts Program open to all ex-offenders.

Community Partners in Action: Family Reunification

A contracted program that helps fathers recently discharged from incarceration reunite with their families in Stowe Village and assume financial responsibility for their children.

Community Partners in Action: Coalition Employment Service (CES)

A contracted program that provides assistance to eligible offenders and ex-offenders to help them realize legitimate means of overcoming barriers to their pursuit of employment and education. Individuals enrolled in the program undergo an assessment of their strengths and weaknesses, needs, job readiness, interests, and degree of motivation. Staff will place them into employment, educational or vocational training according to their needs and interests.

Community Solutions

New London Multi-Service Center-This program provides groups/services in the following areas; Relapse Prevention Group, Substance Abuse Group, Anger Management Group, Employment Assistance Group, and Cognitive Self-Change.

Connecticut Works

Connecticut Works is part of the Department of Labor that provides services to any discharged offender in need of job services. There are 14 Connecticut Works Centers located in 14 One-Stop Centers throughout the State, serving job seekers, students, businesses, and individuals who are underemployed, as well as those who want to change jobs or continue to move in their careers. At these facilities, assessment, testing, workshops and career guidance are available to everyone. Current labor market information enables individuals to plan for the jobs of tomorrow, as well as today. A job bank of available jobs in Connecticut and throughout the nation is literally "at your finger tips" through the use of the Internet. Using a PC, these can be viewed from your home, business, public library, and at any of the One-Stop Centers. (See the directory of [Connecticut Works Centers](#) for the office nearest you.)

Contracted Programs

DOC contracts with a number of community providers for residential and non-residential programs and services for offenders transitioning back to the community.

Discharge Resource Card

This card is given to offenders during the discharge process. It contains phone numbers for housing, clothing, employment assistance, health benefits, as well as phone numbers for each institution.

Family Reentry: Bridgeport Community ReEntry Center

A contracted program that provides integrated counseling, therapy, psycho-educational, evidence-based programs and case management services for offenders on parole, probation, transitional supervision and those who have completed their sentence. The goal is to empower individuals, strengthen families and assist with the successful transition to family and community. Specific programs include; Life Skills, Parenting Education, Mentoring, Anger Management, Domestic Violence Services, Substance Abuse Relapse Prevention, Reentry Support Group, and Individual, Couples and Family therapy.

Families in Crisis: Father's Work Program

This program services 150 inmate fathers annually who are discharging and will reside in Hartford. The program provides employment opportunities and support services necessary for success in the community, on the job and with their family.

New Opportunities for Waterbury, Inc., Jobs NOW-Program

Services include: Assisting in securing birth certificates, social security cards, and state photo identification cards required for employment. Employment services include: one-on-one job counseling; employment readiness activities including completion of job applications; interviewing skills; contacting potential employers; transportation to job interviews, and securing employment and support services. Clients receive information and referrals to assist with self-sufficiency within the community.

Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of New London County, Inc., Employment Program

The purpose of this program is to reinforce employment skills, basic life skills, and to provide referrals for transitional services (e.g., substance abuse treatment, food, housing, clothing, transportation, etc.), individual counseling, group counseling, employment workshops, and job placement assistance. OIC will take referrals from any facilities that have discharging offenders relocating to New London or Windham Counties. On an annual basis approximately 100 offenders would be served.

Perceptions Inc: Intentional Life Skills Programs

Provides chemical-free rehabilitation treatment, education, information, referral and other supportive services to offenders, their families and friends at Bergin CI and Brooklyn CI to make the community healthier and safer by reducing the incidence of substance abuse and crime.

Prison Fellowship

Prison Fellowship provides three distinct programs for the department. Angel Tree Christmas, Angel Tree Mentoring and Life Planning Seminars. Angel Tree works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts. In most cases, local church volunteers purchase and deliver gifts and the gospel to children in the name of their prisoner-parent. All facilities participate in this program. Angel Tree Mentoring is a ministry of the local church that develops Christ-centered relationships between children of prisoners and caring Christian adult volunteers who have been approved by the leadership of that church. Life Planning Seminars are periodically conducted on weekends at various facilities throughout the state.

The Center for Women and Families

Provides non-residential social services for female offenders returning to the Bridgeport area.

4. NEW REENTRY INITIATIVES

Charlene Perkins Reentry Program

In collaboration with the Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Children and Families, Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division, Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and the Women's Consortium, the DOC will be developing a residential reentry program for approximately 110 female offenders at York Correctional Institution. Female offenders who are within 60-100 days of release to discharge, Transitional Supervision, halfway house, or parole will be afforded opportunities and interventions that will assist them in their transition to the community.

Community Addiction Services, Transition Counselors

Addiction Services Transition Counselor positions will be established in each of the four Community Enforcement Units. They will develop reintegration/referral plans for level 2 offenders, based on discharge needs assessments developed at the facility and provide follow up on release. The program will include an educational group and an assessment of needs regarding drug-free, pro-social lifestyle needs. Upon the offenders' release, the transition counselors will advocate and broker services with community providers for various reintegration support services in their respective communities.

Community Mental Health Transition

Mental Health-Transition Counselor (MHTC) positions will be established in each of the four Community Enforcement Units. They will meet individually with offenders identified by DOC Mental Health staff as requiring a detailed transition plan. A transition/discharge plan will be established and include entitlement qualification if applicable. MHTC will educate offenders about available resources and provide individual contacts to insure continuity of care for medication, counseling and mental health services as necessary.

EPIPHANY: Mentoring for Ex-offenders

Epiphany: Mentoring for Ex-offenders is a faith-based mentoring project of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System in cooperation with prison volunteers, DOC staff and representatives from the New Life Program. Epiphany will expand statewide the work of the New Life Program, an interfaith ministry in Old Lyme that matches volunteer mentors with ex-offenders. A pilot begins in Bridgeport this spring. A training manual will be written and a statewide training conference for faith based communities will be held in 2006. Support will be provided by faith communities and they have agreed not to proselytize.

Social Security Memorandum of Understanding

The Social Security Administration and DOC are working to establish a Memorandum of Understanding that will establish procedures and a standardized system to process replacement Social Security Number cards. The purpose is to safeguard Social Security Number cards, prevent identify theft and assist offenders in acquiring employment and services upon release. We are waiting for the Social Security Administration's General Council office in Baltimore to respond.

Supportive Housing

Funding would be used to secure 15 supportive housing units and provide services for individuals who have a history of cycling in and out of jail and prison as a result of mental illness, physical disabilities and substance abuse disorders. The Community Renewal Team will provide management, service infrastructure, direction, housing coordination and clinical services for the project. The CT Coalition to End Homelessness will provide technical assistance in collaboration with their partner, the CT AIDS Residence Coalition.